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FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

PAINTING, SCULPTURE, AND
ARCHITECTURE

INSTITUTED 1826

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1838

EDINBURGH : THOMAS AND ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN, AND TO THE UNIVERSITY

1885

Council and Office-Bearers

OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 11TH NOVEMBER 1885.

Council.

SIR WILLIAM FETTES DOUGLAS, PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE.

W. D. M'KAY, Esq.

W. BEATTIE BROWN, Esq.

J. DICK PEDDIE, Esq.¹

J. SMART, Esq.

J. B. M'DONALD, Esq.

W. E. LOCKHART, Esq.

GEORGE HAY, Esq., SECRETARY AND TRUSTEE.

J. M. BARCLAY, Esq., TREASURER AND TRUSTEE.

WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq., TRUSTEE.

GOURLAY STEELL, Esq.,

W. E. LOCKHART, Esq.,

} AUDITORS.

JOHN HUTCHISON, Esq.,

. LIBRARIAN.

W. D. M'KAY, Esq.,

J. DICK PEDDIE, Esq.,

} CURATORS OF LIBRARY.

J. M. BARCLAY, Esq.,

W. E. LOCKHART, Esq.,

ROBERT GIBB, Esq.,

OTTO T. LEYDE, Esq.,

} VISITORS OF THE LIFE ACADEMY.

¹ Resigned 27th June 1885; Mr. Barclay succeeded in terms of the Laws.

REPORT.

THE COUNCIL beg to report to the Annual General Assembly of Academicians as follows :—

I. The Exhibition of 1885 was opened on Saturday the 14th of February, and closed on Saturday the 16th of May. The number of works exhibited was 1112—viz., 1082 Paintings in Oil and Water-Colour, and 30 works in Sculpture, selected out of a total of 2389 sent for exhibition. The attendance of Visitors was, in comparison with several years past, a fair average.

II. The Annual Dinner took place in the Galleries, as usual, on the eve of the opening of the Exhibition, when the President and Council had the pleasure of receiving a large and distinguished company.

III. At the Annual General Meeting, held on 12th November 1884, Joseph Denovan Adam was elected to the rank of Associate of the Academy, to fill the vacancy caused by the election of William Beattie-Brown to the rank of Academician.

At the same meeting George Anderson Lawson, Sculptor, London, was elected to the rank of Honorary Member of the Academy.¹

¹ A Letter from Mr. Lawson acknowledging his election will be found in the Appendix, p. 18.

IV. At the Statutory Meeting of the Academicians, held on the 10th of February, Clark Stanton was elected to the rank of Academician, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Arthur Perigal. This election, and the death of Robert Anderson, has caused two vacancies in the rank of Associate, which will require to be filled up at the Meeting at which this Report is read.

At the Statutory Meeting in February next, the Academy will be called upon to elect two Academicians in place of the late John Adam Houston and Edmund Thornton Crawford.

V. The following is the Report of the Librarian and the Curators of the Library :—

“The attendance has increased during the past Session.

“The Books, Prints, Drawings, etc., in the Library are in good condition, and catalogued to this date.

“The Books have been recently rearranged, and a new Index compiled.

“It is satisfactory to note the large attendance of Students, and their earnest study of the Books, etc., in the Library.

“The following books, prints, etc., have been added to the Library :—

“Scottish National Portraits. Catalogue of Loan Exhibition. Presentation Edition. Edinburgh, 1884.” 8vo.

Presented by the HON. BOARD OF MANUFACTURES.

“Records of the Tercentenary Festival of the University of Edinburgh, celebrated in April 1884. Published under the sanction of the Senatus Academicus. Edinburgh, 1885. 4to.

Presented by the UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

“Address to the Students of the University of Edinburgh by Sir Alexander Grant, Bart., D.C.L., LL.D., etc. etc. Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University, delivered on 28th October 1884. Published under the sanction of the Senatus Academicus. Edinburgh, 1884. 4to.

Presented by the UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

"The River Tweed from its Source to the Sea. Sixteen Drawings by George Reid, R.S.A. Reproduced in Facsimile by Amand Durand. Text by Professor Veitch, of the University of Glasgow. Edinburgh, 1884. Folio.

"Eight Photogravures from the works of Sir William Fettes Douglas, P.R.S.A. By Messrs. Boussod, Valadon and Company. With a Portrait after George Reid, R.S.A., and a critical Sketch by John M. Gray, Curator of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. Edinburgh, 1885. Folio.

Presented by the ROYAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE
FINE ARTS IN SCOTLAND.

"Catalogue (Arabic) of the Khedivial Library. Cairo, 1885. 8vo.

Presented by the EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

"Sepulchral Monuments of Italy. Mediæval and Renaissance. Photographed and described by Stephen Thompson. With a Preface and Introduction by Charles C. Perkins, containing full Extracts from the ms. Notes of the late G. E. Street, R.A. Arundel Society. London, 1883. Folio.

"Landscape, by Philip Gilbert Hamerton, author of 'Etching and Etchers,' 'The Graphic Arts,' etc. With Original Etchings and many Illustrations from Pictures and Drawings. London, 1885. 4to.

"Jean-François Millet, Peasant and Painter. Translated by Helena De Kay from the French of Alfred Sensier. London, 1881. 4to.

"Ruskin (John): 'Salzburg,' and 'Fragments from a Metrical Journal,' Poems by J. R., Friendship's Offering. London, 1835. 8vo.

"David Scott, R.S.A., and his Works, with a Catalogue of his Paintings, Engravings, and Designs. Edinburgh, 1884. Folio.

"Select Scottish Songs, carefully compared with the Original Editions, and embellished with Characteristic Designs, composed and engraved by the late David Allan, Esq., Historical Painter. Edinburgh, 1799. 4to.

“George Jamesone, *The Scottish Vandyck*, by George Bulloch. With two Illustrations by George Reid, R.S.A. Edinburgh, 1885. 4to.

“Lives of the most Eminent Painters, Sculptors, and Architects, translated from the Italian of Giorgio Vasari, Vol. VI. Commentary containing Notes and Emendations from the Italian Edition of Milanesi and other sources, by J. P. Richter, Ph.D. London, 1885. 8vo.

“Supplemental Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Scottish Seals, Royal, Baronial, Ecclesiastical, and Municipal, embracing the period from A.D. 1150 to the Eighteenth Century, taken from Original Charters and other Deeds preserved in Public and Private Archives, by Henry Laing, Edinburgh. Edinburgh, 1866. 4to.

(Signed) JOHN HUTCHISON, *Librarian*.
W. D. M'KAY, *Curator*.
* *Curator.*”

VI. The Visitors of the Life School report as follows :—

“The Session of 1884-5 commenced on 3d Nov. 1884, and ended on 26th June 1885, having 121 morning, and 123 evening meetings. The aggregate morning attendance was 2377, or an average of 19 per morning, and 2461 was the aggregate evening attendance, being an average of 20 per evening.

“The Visitors have much pleasure in reporting that the conduct of the students has been all that they could wish, and they hope the Council will agree with them that the work done maintains its usual high quality, more especially in colour.

(Signed) J. M. BARCLAY, *Visitor*.
W. E. LOCKHART, *Visitor*.
OTTO T. LEYDE, *Visitor*.
† , *Visitor.*”

The Council continue to feel much satisfied with the general excellence of the Students' work, and after a careful examination, can fully endorse the Visitors' Report. And

* Unsigned in consequence of Mr. Peddie's absence.

† Unsigned in consequence of Mr. Gibb's absence.

further, the Council are pleased to see the marked improvement in the drawing of the hands and feet.

In regard to the designs sent in competition for the Stuart Prize, the Council observe with pleasure the earnest effort shown in the work to which the prize has been adjudicated. At the same time they feel themselves called upon to express their disappointment that only four Students have submitted works in competition.

The prizes were awarded as follows :—

For Painting from the	} Equal,	{	JOSEPH MILNE.
Life (the Chalmers Prize),			G. DENHOLM ARMOUR.

For the best Drawing from the Life, T. B. BLACKLOCK.

For the second best, WILLIAM MARTIN.

Keith Prize, for the best Work of a	} THOMAS SCOTT.
Student in this year's Exhibition,	

MacLaine Watters Medal, JOSEPH MILNE.

Stuart Prize, A. G. SINCLAIR.

A number of studies from the Life executed in Water-Colour and Bas-Reliefs from the Life, deserve commendation.

VII. The following additions have been made to the Academy's Collection of Works of Art, etc., during the past year :—

1. Original Model in Bas-relief,¹ Diploma Work of Clark Stanton, Esq., R.S.A.

2. Miniature Portrait of Miss Wilhelmina Sheriff, late Mrs. James Dymock, by Kenneth Macleay, R.S.A.²

Presented by MISS MARGARET KERR, 30 Queen's Crescent, Edinburgh.

¹ This is a temporary work, to be replaced by a marble bust of the late William Brodie, R.S.A.

² This presentation was very acceptable, as it was the only specimen of miniature painting on ivory by the Artist in the Academy's Collection of Works of Art.

3. Plaster Cast of the Statue in Marble of "Rob Roy," by T. Stuart Burnett, Esq., A.R.S.A.

*Presented by JOHN AIRD, Esq., London.*¹

4. Cabinet Portrait of George Paul Chalmers, R.S.A., painted by himself.

*Presented by KEELEY HALSWELLE, Esq., A.R.S.A.*²

5. Portrait of James Eckford Lauder, R.S.A., painted by himself.

Purchased by the ACADEMY.

6. Catalogue of the Loan Exhibition of Scottish National Portraits.

Presented by the Hon. BOARD OF MANUFACTURES.

7. A Volume, "The River Tweed, from its Source to the Sea." Sixteen Drawings by George Reid, Esq., R.S.A.³

8. Volume of Proofs of Eight Photogravures from the Works of Sir William Fettes Douglas, P.R.S.A., with a Portrait by George Reid, Esq., R.S.A., and a Critical Sketch, by J. M. Gray, Esq.⁴

The above Two Volumes Presented by the ROYAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE FINE ARTS IN SCOTLAND.

9. Copy of the Catalogue in Arabic of Khedivial Library.

Presented by the EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

10. Copy of the "Records of the Tercentenary Festival of the University of Edinburgh."

11. Copy of the "Address to the Students of the University of Edinburgh," by Sir Alexander Grant, D.C.L., LL.D., etc.

The above two Works presented by the UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

12. A Ram's Head Snuff-box.

Presented by FRANCIS POWELL, Esq., R.W.S., P.S.W.S.

13. A Silver Punch Ladle, made by Sir Henry Raeburn, R.A., when he was an apprentice silver-smith.

Purchased by the ACADEMY.

The thanks of the Council were duly transmitted to the respective donors.

¹ A letter from Mr. Aird, presenting the Cast, will be found in the Appendix, p. 18.

² A letter from Mr. Halswelle, presenting the portrait, will be found in the Appendix, p. 19.

³ See Library Report.

⁴ See Library Report.

VIII. A vacancy in the Council having been caused by Mr. J. Dick Peddie's resignation, it was, in accordance with the Laws, filled up by the Treasurer.

IX. It is the painful duty of the Council to report that the past year has been much saddened by the number of deaths which have occurred in the ranks of the Academy—two Academicians, two Associates, and an Honorary Member, having died since the Annual General Meeting in November last.

X. John Adam Houston, R.S.A., died at his residence in London on 2d December 1884.

The following Minute was unanimously adopted at a meeting of Council, two days after the announcement of his decease, and ordered to be recorded in the books of the Academy:—

“The Council desire to place on record an expression of the loss sustained by the Academy in the death, on the 2d inst., of one of its oldest fellow Academicians, John Adam Houston, whose name has been long and honourably identified with Art in Scotland. His works never failed to meet with due appreciation on the walls of the Academy, and their absence will be a loss of much that was interesting in the Annual Exhibition, to which, for upwards of half a century, he was a regular and liberal contributor.

“The Secretary was instructed to transmit a copy of this Minute to his son, Mr. J. L. Houston, and at the same time to convey to him and the other members of the family the expression of the Academy's sympathy with them in their great affliction.”

John Adam Houston was born at Gwydyr Castle, North Wales, on 26th December 1812. His father was a native of Renfrewshire, where the family had a small estate near the village of Houston. Through his mother he was first cousin to Alexander Nasmyth, the founder of the Scottish School of Landscape Painting. He studied at the Trustees' Academy, under Sir William Allan, whose friendship he

retained during his life. His first contribution to the Annual Exhibition was a Cattle Piece, exhibited in 1831. His father about this time having in vain attempted to induce him to abandon Art for Law, Houston left Edinburgh and became a student of the Royal Academy, Hilton and Etty being then connected with its School as Visitors. He remained in London studying and practising assiduously for upwards of five years, frequently visiting France and Germany, and exhibiting in the Royal Scottish Academy's Exhibitions pictures mainly taken from sketches made during his travels. He returned to Edinburgh in 1841, and produced numerous characteristic figure pictures, his subjects generally being taken from the period of Elizabeth and Cromwell. In 1855 he was compelled, on account of his health, to go to Italy, and after two years' residence in that country he returned to Edinburgh, only to find that the climate did not agree with him, and finally he settled in London in 1858, where he resided during the remainder of his life, continuing, however, to the end a staunch supporter of our Annual Exhibition.

He was elected an Associate of the Royal Scottish Academy in 1842, and attained the rank of Academician in 1845.

He was also a Member of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water-Colours.

XI. Robert Anderson, A.R.S.A., died on 24th April, at the comparatively early age of 43. Born at Edinburgh, he was trained as an engraver, and displayed no ordinary ability in that Art, which he practised successfully for several years. Having, however, developed considerable talent in Water-Colour painting, he gave up engraving in 1879, and the many works in Water-Colour which emanated from his pencil rapidly brought him practice and reputation.

Marine subjects, wherein were frequently depicted the varied phases of Scottish fisher life and character, were his main study; but in the harvest-field and farm-yard he also found material congenial to his taste. A year or two before his death he gave unequivocal evidence of his ability in Oil painting, which promised as decided success in that branch of Art as he had already attained in Water-Colour painting. Mr. Anderson was elected an Associate of the Academy in 1879. His genial, kindly, and unassuming disposition secured for him the esteem of his professional brethren. The President, Council, and Office-bearers and other members attended his funeral.

XII. John Glass, one of the oldest Associates of the Academy, died on 12th September. Born in 1820, at Edinburgh, he early manifested a predilection for animal painting, for which he had a special aptitude and ability, and he very soon got into notice and practice in that walk of Art, producing a number of important works, in which his feeling for composition and colour was powerfully manifested. Many years ago Mr. Glass suffered from a nervous affection, and though he recovered from that complaint, his power in painting, to some extent, had left him. He continued, however, to exhibit in the Annual Exhibition, but in these later works little evidence of his former ability was discernible. In disposition he was gentle and unassuming, and was held in much esteem by all who knew him. The President and a number of Members and Honorary Members of the Academy were present at his funeral.

XIII. Edmund Thornton Crawford, one of the most distinguished of Scottish landscape-painters, died at his residence at Lasswade, on 27th September, at the age of seventy-nine.

At a Meeting of Council held shortly after his death the following Minute was unanimously adopted, and ordered to be recorded on the books of the Academy :—

“Before proceeding to the ordinary business for which this Meeting has been called, the Council desire to record their sense of the great loss the Academy has recently sustained by the death of its very venerable and esteemed member, Edmund Thornton Crawford.

“Mr. Crawford early in life gained for himself a high position in Landscape and Marine painting, and maintained it to the last of his long and honourable career. Although not one of the founders of the Academy,¹ he was one of its earliest elected members, and his works very soon came to be marked features in its Annual Exhibitions. The characteristics of his art are those of what may be termed the Old School of Scottish Landscape Painting; a contemporary of Thomson of Duddingston, Ewbank, and William Simson, he survived them for many years, the only representative of their method of study and feeling for Nature. It was not so realistic in detail as the Modern School, but was perhaps wider in its grasp, and strove to express its impression of Nature rather than imitate her with realistic truth.”

In testimony of the respect in which he was held by the Academy, the President and a large number of Members and Honorary Members attended his funeral.

E. T. Crawford was born at Cowden, near Dalkeith. His father was a land-surveyor, who owned and resided at Cameron Bank. Crawford when a boy was apprenticed to a house-painter in Edinburgh, but having evinced a decided taste and ability for Art, his engagement was cancelled, and he entered the Trustees' Academy under Wilson, where he had for fellow-students D. O. Hill, R. S. Lauder, and others who also attained in after-life no little eminence. William Simson, who was one of the older

¹ Mr. Crawford's name appears in the original list of Associates, but he withdrew from the body before its first Exhibition.

students, became his most intimate friend and acknowledged master, and, from their frequent sketching expeditions and painting together, Crawford imbibed much of the best qualities of that able artist. His early efforts in Art were exhibited in the Royal Institution, and his first contributions to the Annual Exhibition of the Academy appeared in 1831, two of them being taken from Lowland scenery in Scotland, and the third being the portrait of a lady. Two years thereafter—having visited Holland during that interval, and to which country he afterwards occasionally returned—he commenced to exhibit a long series of marine subjects and landscapes, many of them of importance, but it was not till 1848 that he produced his first great picture, and this he rapidly followed up with other works of high quality, which established his reputation as one of the greatest masters in landscape-painting in Scotland. For a few years previous to this epoch in his Art career he practised very successfully as a teacher of drawing. In 1858 he left Edinburgh, and took up his residence at Lasswade, continuing, however, to contribute regularly to the Annual Exhibition of the Academy till his seventy-first year. In his prime he was a keen sportsman with rod and gun. For many years he suffered much, yet patiently, from an ailment to which he ultimately succumbed, and which had forced him latterly to a life of the closest retirement.

He was elected an Associate of the Academy in 1839, and an Academician in 1848.

XIV. The last name to be recorded on the sad list of the Academy's losses for the year is that of Robert Thorburn, A.R.A., H.R.S.A. ; for, while the Council were drawing up this Report, the death on 2d November of that distinguished Scottish Artist was announced.

The following Minute was unanimously adopted at a

Meeting of Council held on 7th November, and ordered to be recorded in the books of the Academy :—

“Thirty years ago the name of Robert Thorburn was at the head of British Miniature Painting, and although at present that exquisite Art is in practice almost unknown, the master works of the miniaturist command our admiration as much as they ever did, and few who ever practised the Art possessed higher or more remarkable power than the painter who has just passed away. Although never intimately connected with the Academy or any of its members, the Council cannot but feel and regret that the name of a man of such mark and power has to be erased from its membership.

“The Secretary was instructed to transmit a copy of this Minute to his representatives in a letter of condolence and sympathy with them in their bereavement.”

Robert Thorburn was born at Dumfries, and studied in Edinburgh at the Trustees' Academy. He was early in life taken by the hand by influential and zealous friends, and, after a short but successful career in Edinburgh, settled in London, where his miniatures of Her Majesty the Queen, Prince Albert, and many other Royal and illustrious personages, made his works highly popular. About twenty years ago he settled at Lasswade, but the latter years of his life were spent at Kelso. He died at Tunbridge Wells on 2d November, at the age of sixty-seven.

He was an Associate of the Royal Academy, and was elected an Honorary Member of the Royal Scottish Academy in 1857.

XV. In accordance with the resolutions of the Academy of 11th December 1884, an Exhibition of Works in Water-Colour was held during part of the Summer and Autumn months. It was opened on Saturday the 11th of July, and closed on Saturday the 17th of October. The number of Works exhibited was 1001, viz. 828 in Water-Colour, 141

Studies in Black and White, and 32 Works in Sculpture, selected out of a total of 1823 Works sent for exhibition.

As this Exhibition was the first of the kind held by the Academy, and was considered more as an experiment than otherwise, the Council are glad to be able to report that the result, notwithstanding the short notice given to contributors, was highly gratifying, it having far surpassed their anticipations, both in regard to the number and quality of the Works exhibited. The attendance of the general public was sufficiently good to induce the Council to recommend continuance of these Exhibitions.

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY,
11th November 1885.

APPENDIX.

*Letter from Mr. Lawson, acknowledging his election of
Honorary Membership, 14th November 1884.*

6 MARLBOROUGH ROAD, ST. JOHN'S WOOD, N.W.,
LONDON, 14th Nov. 1884.

MY DEAR HAY,—I have received your official intimation of my election as an H.R.S.A.

That the President and Members should have considered me worthy of the high honour shall ever be to me a matter of high gratification and pride, and I accept of it with grateful thanks.

Believe me,

My dear HAY,

Yours very truly,

GEO. A. LAWSON.

GEORGE HAY, Esq., R.S.A., Sec.

*Letter from Mr. Aird, offering for the acceptance of the Academy
Plaster Cast of Rob Roy, by Mr. Burnett, 17th May 1885.*

14 HYDE PARK TERRACE, W.,
17th May 1885.

MY DEAR SIR,—An Associate of your Academy, Mr. T. Stuart Burnett, has recently completed for me a marble statue of Rob Roy, now exhibited at the Royal Academy in London.

It has given me great pleasure to be the possessor of this noble work, and the pleasure will be greatly increased if the Royal Scottish Academy will honour the artist and myself by accepting the life-sized model, and which, with the greatest respect I beg to place at their disposal.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN AIRD.

SIR W. FETTES DOUGLAS, P.R.S.A., Edinburgh.

*Letter from Mr. Halswelle, presenting Cabinet Portrait of the
late Mr. G. P. Chalmers, R.S.A., October 19th, 1885.*

October 19th, 1885.

To the PRESIDENT and COUNCIL *of the*
ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg you will accept on behalf of the Royal Scottish Academy the accompanying portrait of the late G. P. Chalmers, R.S.A., painted by himself about the year 1866.

I trust you will consider it worthy of a permanent place on your walls, not only as the likeness of an eminent Member of the Royal Scottish Academy, but also as a characteristic specimen of his work in its beauty of colour and effect.—I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

KEELEY HALSWELLE.

STONER HOUSE, PETERSFIELD.

At the Annual Meeting of the Royal Scottish Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, held in the Library of Academy on Wednesday, the 11th of November 1885, the Office-bearers were elected, and the Council declared for the ensuing year, as follows :—

Council.

SIR WILLIAM FETTES DOUGLAS, PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE.

W. BEATTIE-BROWN, Esq.

CLARK STANTON, Esq.

J. SMART, Esq.

J. M. BARCLAY, Esq.

W. E. LOCKHART, Esq.

GOURLAY STEELL, Esq.

GEORGE HAY, Esq., SECRETARY AND TRUSTEE.

J. M. BARCLAY, Esq., TREASURER AND TRUSTEE.

WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq., TRUSTEE.

GOURLAY STEELL, Esq.,

W. E. LOCKHART, Esq.,

} AUDITORS.

JOHN HUTCHISON, Esq., LIBRARIAN.

W. BEATTIE-BROWN, Esq.,

J. SMART, Esq.,

} CURATORS OF LIBRARY.

J. M. BARCLAY, Esq.,

W. E. LOCKHART, Esq.,

OTTO T. LEYDE, Esq.,

ROBERT GIBB, Esq.,

} VISITORS OF LIFE SCHOOL.

NOTE.

At the same Meeting Messrs. D. G. STEELL and W. G. STEVENSON were elected Associates of the Academy.

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